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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Washington, DC

AUG 24 2001

Al Pope, President
United Egg Producers (UEP)
One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Pope:

This is in response to your letter of March 2, 2001, a meeting that was held at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on April 20, 2001, and a telephone conference call with representatives from Dolco and UEP on June 29, 2001, regarding the placement of the safe handling statement required on the cartons of shell eggs that have not been treated to destroy *Salmonella*. Specifically, you requested that FDA reconsider the position stated in its letters to egg carton manufacturers and retailers, and offer the option of placing the safe handling statement on the inside lid (in-lid) of egg cartons.

The agency intends to initiate rulemaking that considers the option of placing prominent safe handling statements on the inside lid. Until such rulemaking is complete, we will consider how to handle in-lid labeling on a case-by-case basis. FDA is in the process of reviewing the requests we have received to date. We are making the states aware of case-by-case decisions we make on this subject.

If you have further questions, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph A. Levitt
Director
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

cc:

United Egg Producers
Ken Klippen
Vice President for Government Relations

Randy Green
Senior Government Relations Representative

Carlton Lofgren, Chairman